

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. through 21. (Cancelled).

22. (New) A hydrodynamic modular unit comprising:

a primary impeller;

a secondary impeller, said primary and secondary impellers forming at least one working chamber that can be filled with operating medium;

a first inlet allowing the operating medium into said working chamber;

a first outlet allowing the operating medium out of said working chamber;

a second inlet, wherein said second inlet and said first outlet are coupled together via a circuit, and wherein said first inlet can be coupled to said second inlet;

a first device for connecting said second inlet and said first outlet to said first inlet simultaneously or with a pre-determined time delay, in order to fill said working chamber simultaneously by said first inlet and a second outlet, wherein said first device comprises:

a first valve arranged in connection between said first inlet and said first outlet, wherein said first valve has a first switching position for connecting said first outlet to said first inlet, and wherein said first valve has a second switching position for breaking the connection between said

first outlet and said first inlet.

23. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 22, wherein said circuit is designed as a closed circuit, wherein said first device comprises a second device for filling and/or draining which is connected to said circuit, and wherein said second means comprises a third device for creating a pressure for influencing pressure in said circuit.

24. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 23, wherein said second device comprises a pressure-generating device which applies a static superimposed pressure on a static operating-medium level of said first inlet.

25. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 24, wherein said first inlet is formed by an operating-medium storage vessel in the form of a tank.

26. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 24, wherein said first inlet is formed by an oil sump disposed in a housing of a gear modular unit or in a housing of a starting unit.

27. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 23, wherein said second device is connected to said circuit in a liquid-tight and pressure-tight manner, except in the case of an evacuation.

28. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 22, wherein said first device comprises a second valve arranged between said first and second inlets, said second valve

leading into said working chamber.

29. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 22, wherein said second inlet is arranged in a region of lowest static pressure.

30. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 29, wherein said second inlet is arranged in a core chamber in a region of a central diameter of said working chamber and in a region of a dividing plane between said primary and secondary impellers.

31. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 30, wherein said core chamber is within said working chamber.

32. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 29, wherein said second inlet is arranged on a first blade of a blading system on either said primary or said second impellers.

33. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 32, wherein said second inlet is arranged in an end region of said first blade.

34. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 32,

 further comprising:

an operating-medium delivery or filling chamber being connected to said second inlet via a channel.

35. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 34, wherein said channel is incorporated into said first blade.

36. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 35, wherein said operating-medium delivery or filling chamber is arranged on an outer circumference of a blade wheel in a radial direction below a central diameter of said working chamber, wherein said channel extends from said operating-medium delivery or filling chamber through a wall of said blade wheel to or through a second blade of said blading system in a direction of said central diameter into a region of a dividing plane between said primary and secondary impellers and up to an end of said second blade.

37. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 34, further comprising:

a plurality of said second inlets being associated with a plurality of said channels, wherein each one of said plurality of channels is connected together via a ring channel.

38. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 37, wherein said ring channel is formed by said operating-medium delivery or filling chamber.

39. (New) The hydrodynamic modular unit of claim 22, wherein the hydrodynamic modular unit is a hydrodynamic coupling, wherein said primary impeller functions as a pump wheel, and wherein said secondary impeller functions as a turbine wheel, said hydrodynamic coupling being free of a guide wheel.

40. (New) A method for accelerating the filling process of a hydrodynamic modular unit, comprising:

receiving a signal that a desired filling operation has been accomplished and in response to said signal, coupling of the hydrodynamic modular unit to an operating-medium source after a standing still or in a drained state for filling of an inlet and an outlet simultaneously or in a time-delayed manner;

filling of a working chamber with operating medium simultaneously through said inlet and said outlet;

establishing a flow circuit in said working chamber;

establishing a parameter of specific magnitude of a pressure in said working chamber; and

decoupling said outlet from said operating-medium source.

41. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the decoupling step is accomplished via a valve device, said valve device being subjected to an actuating pressure resulting from the pressure in said working chamber.